[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

PRESIDENT: Are you sure that he is the only Roman Catholic?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes, Sir; he is the only Roman Catholic in the two Colleges referred to.

Beggar Problem in Travancore.

70. MR. P. T. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): (*a*) How many beggars are there in the State?

(*b*) How many of them are born subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja, and how many outsiders?

(*c*) How many of these are able-bodied men fit to work, and how many unable to earn their livelihood on account of physical infirmities, diseases, etc.?

(*d*) Are not the Government aware that these beggars are wandering from house to house causing nuisance to the public?

(*e*) Where do these beggars live? Have the Government made any provision for housing these poor people?

(*f*) Do the Government know that many of them die miserably on the streets and roads?

(*g*) Will the Government be pleased to introduce a Bill prohibiting professional beggary and the immigration of beggars into Travancore, and laying down measures for the alleviation of the miseries of *bonæ fide* beggars?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The total number of beggars including vagrants, witches, wizards, etc., is 5,770, as per the census of 1921.

(*b*) and (*c*) Government have no information.

(*d*) Some beggars do so.

(*e*) Government have no information as to their abodes. Government have made no special provision for their accommodation.

(*f*) Government have no information.

(*g*) Government do not propose to undertake any such legislation at present.

Examination Qualifications for Government Service.

71. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they consider the Vernacular Higher and the Vernacular School Leaving Examinations as equal in value for preference and promotions in the public service;

(*b*) whether all those who have passed the Vernacular Higher Examination are started on the same pay in the Education Department; and

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